



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Experiencing the Father's Love

SPEAKER Ps Ng Hua Ken

THEME Strengthening Foundations

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the third instalment of a four-part series about strengthening our biblical foundations, Ps Hua Ken shared what it means to experience a father's love.

EXPERIENCING THE FATHER'S LOVE

In Psalms 103:13-14, David describes God as a compassionate father who knows his children and understands their weaknesses. Our God is tender, loving and caring to all who fear and revere him. Through these verses, we get a better understanding of God's character, learn about Jesus' relationship with God and examine our own relationship with God the Father.

1. The Parable of the Waiting Father

In Luke 15:11-24, Ps Hua Ken shared about the parable of the lost son and the importance of experiencing the love of a father in our lives. The parable shows how the father welcomed his son home despite the son squandering away his inheritance. This act displays the love and mercy of a father.

We are also reminded about the character of God in Jeremiah 9:23-24 – God is loving, just and righteous. And because God is loving, he will always do things that demonstrates his love for us.

The Father's love is perfect and surpasses all other worldly love; once you have tasted the Father's love, you will not want to settle for anything less than that.

2. Jesus and His relationship with God the Father

Now, let's look into Jesus' relationship with God the Father: from a young age, Jesus knew he had a mission, which is to fulfil God's calling in his life (Luke 2:49). Later, in Luke 11:1, Jesus taught his disciples to also address God as their heavenly Father, when they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. We are reminded through these verses that for those who believe in Jesus, we can enter a special relationship with God and call him "our Father".

Also, in Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:9-11, we read about the following scenes:

- *Heavens being torn open*: an implication of this is that heaven is no longer silent about who Jesus is. God has, once and for all, established communication between heaven and humanity through Jesus. Through Jesus' act of obedience of going through baptism, God now speaks to us through him.
- *A spirit descending like a dove*: God has anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and gave Jesus the power and authority to fulfil God's calling in his life.
- *A voice that came from heaven*: it shows that Jesus is the Messiah and that he has a special relationship with God.

The above confirms Jesus' calling and identity, as well as the purpose to fulfil what God has called him to do. It is also a time where God consecrated and proclaimed Jesus as His Son and gave him the commission and authority needed.

3) Our relationship with God the Father

God established marriage and through this, it is his hope that he be glorified when we produce godly offspring. To build our child's identity, it is important for both parents to play an active role in providing that security and identity for the child. At times, we may be at a loss on how we should parent our children, but we should always remember to turn to the Lord for wisdom. In our relationship with God as our Father, we also have a duty to represent who God is to our families and children.

CONCLUSION

Our God is compassionate and loving. Whatever stage we are at, he will be waiting for us with open hearts. Keep your eyes fixed on him and the love of God will pour into our hearts.

QUESTIONS

1. Psalm 103: 8 reminds us that God's love is compassionate and gracious. Share in a few words, what image does a "Father" bring to you? How has your own relationship with God the Father evolved over the years, and what does it look like now?

2. In the Parable of the Waiting Father (Luke 15:11-24), the wayward son came to his senses after frittering away his inheritance and came back to find his father waiting with open arms, full of compassion and forgiveness. Do you identify with any aspects of the wayward son in this parable?

3. As Christians, we represent who God is to those around us. To what extent have you intentionally reflected God to others through the way you live your life? Are there areas for growth in this aspect?